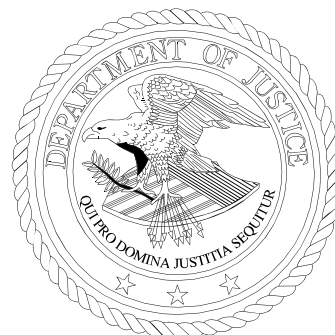


NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
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Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 18, 2008

West New York Architect/Attorney Admits Making False Statements to Federal Agents During Corruption Probe

(More)

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TRENTON - An architect/attorney who represented various agencies of the Township of West New York pleaded guilty today to making false and misleading statements to Special Agents of the FBI, who were investigating whether he had made corrupt payments to local public officials in Hudson County in exchange for official favors, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Jose A. Izquierdo, 52, of Cliffside Park, made his first appearance in federal court and pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief District Court Judge Garrett E. Brown, Jr., to a one-count Information, which charges him with making materially false statements in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Executive Branch of the Government of the United States. Judge Brown released the defendant on an unsecured \$50,000 personal cognizance bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for Dec. 15.

At his plea hearing, Izquierdo stated that through an architectural and law firm that he owned and operated, he represented various agencies of the Township of West New York from about 2000 until February 2006. In addition, Izquierdo stated that he represented builders and developers in connection with various real estate matters in West New York and other municipalities in Hudson County.

Izquierdo admitted that on Feb. 22, 2006, during an interview with FBI Special Agents concerning the making and concealing of corrupt payments to municipal officials, he made a number of false and misleading statements to the agents. Izquierdo admitted that he falsely told the agents that a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment of Union City ("zoning board member") repaid him approximately \$3,417 in cash for Izquierdo's purchase of a Pomeranian dog and accompanying pet supplies for the zoning board member's girlfriend. Izquierdo also admitted that he falsely told the agents that the zoning board member repaid him in full for the purchase of the dog when, in fact, no repayment was necessary because the purchase was part of a corrupt payment to the zoning board member. Izquierdo stated that the corrupt payment was in exchange for the zoning board member's official influence and action in Izquierdo's favor and that of his clients. Izquierdo also admitted that he falsely told agents that he never directly or indirectly provided the zoning board member with any money or anything of value when, in fact, Izquierdo made a number of such payments to the zoning board member in exchange for official favors and referrals.

The charge to which Izquierdo pleaded guilty carries a statutory maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Brown will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors.

The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, that led to today's charges.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian R. Howe, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Attorney's Special Prosecution's Unit in Newark.

– end–

Defense Attorney: Eric R. Breslin, Esq. Newark